LESTRANGE'S

NARRATIVE

OF THE

PLOT.

Set Forth for the

EDIFICATION

Of His Majesties

LIEGE-PEOPLE.

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L'ESTRANGE'S NARRATIVE, *&c.*

IN This Age of *Narratives*, We ſhould do with our *Books*, methinks, as *Vittlers* do with their *Ord'naries*; every Authour hang up a *Table* at's Door, and ſay, *Here you may have a very good* Narrative, *for* Threepence, *a* Groat, *or* Sixpence, *or* Higher *if you pleaſe*. For we have 'em of all Sorts and Sizes: The only Danger is, the Popping of *Catt* and *Dogs-Fleſh* upon us, for *Cony*, and *Veniſon*. For take 'em one with another, at the *Common* rate of *Narratives*, there's hardly *One* of *Five* that will paſſe *Muſter*. But *what is a NARRATIVE*? you'l ſay.

A *Narrative* is a *Relation* of ſomething that may be *ſeen*, *felt*, *heard*, or *underſtood*: Or otherwiſe; It is a *Relation* of ſomething that *Can neither* be *ſeen*, *felt*, *heard*, nor *underſtood*: For we have Our *Narratives* of things *Viſible* and *Inviſible*; *Poſſible* and *Impoſſible*; *True* and *Falſe*: Our *Narratives* of *Fact*, and our *Narratives* of *Imagination*. In One word: There was never any thing *Said*, *Done*, or *Thought* of, Since the Creation; nor ſo much as any thing *Fanſy'd*, tho' it was *never Said*, *Done*, or *Thought of*, but it will Bear a *Narrative*. So that the only point will be, out of This Infinite *Diverſity* of *Narratives*, Which is *the Narrative here in queſtion*.

NOW the *Narrative here in queſtion*, is the *Narrative* of The *PLOT*; but then there will ariſe Another Queſtion; Of *WHAT Plot*? For there are as many ſorts of *Plots* as there are of *Narratives*. There are *Plots* of *Paſſion*, and *Plots* of *Intereſt*; *Plots Generall* and *Particular*; *Publick* and *Private*; *Forreign* and *Domeſtique*; *Eccleſiaſticall* and *Civill*: There are *Plots* to *Undermine Governments*, and *Plots* to *Support* them; *Plots Simple*,

and *Counter-Plots*; *Plots* to *make Plots*; and *Plots* to *Spoil Plots*; *Plots* to give *Credit* to *Sham-Plots*; and *Plots* again to *Baffle*, and *Discountenance Reall Ones*: *Plots Jesuiticall*, and *Phanatique*; *Plots Great* and *Small*; *High* and *Low*; In short, There is not any thing under the Sun, that may serve us either for *Pleasure*, or *Convenience*, but we have a *Plot* upon't: And the *Master-Plot* of *all*, is the *Plot* how to get the *Money* out of *One* Pocket into *Another*; as is well Observ'd by one of the Antients. For what is it that sets all Trades and Professions a work, Nay and all wickedness too; As *Murther*, *Calumny*, *Oppression*, *Perjury*, *Subornation*, *Corruption*, &c. But a *Plot* upon *Mony*?

NOW to come to my point. This Discourse is not a *Wild* and *Rambling Narrative* of some *Indefinite Plot*, that no body knows *what* to *make* of, or *where* to *find* it: But it is a *Narrative* (by way of *Excellence*) of *THE Plot*: that is to say, the *Capitall* and *Hellish Plot* which is *now* in *Agitation*, for the Destruction of Our *Prince*, *Religion* and *Government*, to the Horrour and Amazement of all the *Reformed Catholiques* in *Christendom*. I call them *Reformed Catholiques*, rather then *Protestants*, because I take the *Catholique* to be the *Antienter Family* of the *Two*: The *Denomination* being used in the *Primitive Church*; and not only to denote a *Generality*, or *Universality* of *Profession*: but also to *Distinguish Orthodox*, and *Obedient Christians*, from *Schismatiques*, and *Heretiques*. 'Tis cast in my Dish I know, as a *Reproach*, that I will not own my self to be a *Protestant*. Now so far as *Protestant* is a *Catholique*, or as the *Church* of *England* is *That* which *They* call *Protestant*, 'tis all one to me, whether I passe for a *Reformed Catholique*, a *Church of England-man*, or a *Protestant*. But when *Heresie*, and *Schism* comes to shelter it self under the Cover of *Protestantism*, (which is but too common a Case) I have no Ambition to be accounted any of *those Protestants*. So that my Crime is only that I am *a Church-of-England-Protestant*. But to return to my Theme.

LET

LET the Reader take notice, that as theſe Papers are only a *Narrative* of *that Plot* which is notoriouſly known, and diſtinguiſhed from *all other* Plots, by the *Emphaſis* of *THE* Plot: So it is *L'Eſtrange's Narrative* of *That* Plot; from whom no more Light can reaſonably be expected then what ariſes out of matters within the Compaſſe of His Obſervation. He does not pretend, either directly, or indirectly, to have been *Entruſted* by any of the *Prieſts*, or *Jeſuits*. Or to have been *preſent* at any of their Bloody and Deſperate *Conſults*; or *Privy* to any of their *Letters*, *Meſſages*, or *Commiſſions*: So that *We* can ſay *nothing at all* to the *Particulars* that have been given in by the *Kings Witneſſes*: Or if we *Could*, the doing of it would ſignify no more then the holding of a *Candle* to the *Sun*: For whoever carefully *peruſes Their Writings* and *Depoſitions*, *compares* their *Teſtimonies*; and *yet doubts* of the Plot, is little better, certainly, then Seal'd up under the ſpirit of *Blindneſs*, and *Deluſion*. Let no body therefore expect from *Theſe Sheets*, any *Repetition* of what the *Kings Evidences* have *Delivered*, and *Depoſed* with ſo much Solemnity *allready*; but rather repair to the *Memorialls* that they have committed to the *Publique*, which are *many*, and *Copious*, for a *Full*, and *Finall Satisfaction*. And in the mean time I ſhall apply my ſelf to the making out of the *Plot here in Queſtion*, my own way, (which, in ſtrictneſſe of ſpeaking is not ſo properly a *Plot*, as an *Intrigue*.)

THE *Difference* betwixt a *Plot*, and an *Intrigue*, I take to be *This*; a *Plot* may be *Solitary*, as when a man contrives or caſts about with himſelf how to get a *Dinner*, (for the purpoſe) an *Office*, a *Penſion*, &c. He brings his Ends about by his *Own Wits*, as by *Cogging*, *Wheedling*, *Hectoring*, *Swearing*, *Lying*, or the like, as beſt makes for his purpoſe; but an *Intrigue* is always *Social*, and menag'd by *Intelligence* and *Confederacy*: So that it ſeems to be a kinde of a *Plot* with *Complices*, and yet it is not abſolutely *That* neither. For the *Critiques* will have a *Plot*

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to import only a *General Resolution*, or *Agreement* upon *some Common End*; and an *Intrigue* to signifie a Certain *Artifice*, or *Mystery* in the *manner* of bringing it about. Of *Intrigues*, some are *direct Conspiracies*; as where a *Designe* is *Govern'd* by the *Contrivance*, *Advice*, and *Consent*; and *Improved* to the *Common Advantage* and *Behoof* of all the *Parties* therein *concern'd*. Of *This Kinde*, were the *late Intrigues* of the *Fanatiques* against the *Government*; where, as they *all contributed* to the *Ruine* of the *Publique*, so did they *all*, in some measure, *Partake* of the *Quarry*. There are *Other Intrigues* which are not so much a *Formal Confederacy* as a *Blinde Co-operation* of *several Parties*, toward the gaining of such or such an *End*, by working upon the *Passions* and *Weaknesses* of one another, without ever *Concerting* the matter betwixt them; and This is the Quality of the *Plot* whereof I am now about to Treat.

WE have been told abundantly of the *Popish Plot*, The *Booksellers Ware houses* are *Cram'd*, and there *Stalls charg'd* with the *Memorials* of it; All our *Courts of Justice*, and *Journals* of *State* bear witness to it. It has set all *Tongues* and *Pens* agoing; and all *Christendom Rings* of it; So that since nothing can be added to what is allready delivered upon This *Single Subject*, my business will be only to take *up* the Story where the *great Evidences* of the *Truth* of it have been pleased to let it *fall*.

AFTER a Nice and Particular Deduction of the *mayn Plot*, they do unanimously Close upon *This Assertion*; that it was a *Jesuiticall Influence* that *Ruin'd* the *Late King*, and *Irritated* the *Faction*: and that it is a *Popish Ferment* still at This day, that puts all the *Schisms* into *motion*. And for Proof thereof, *Doctor Oates* refers us to the Instance of the *Four Jesuits*, and the *Dominican* that mingled with the *Fifth Monarchy men*, for the *Burning* of *London*; (*Deposition* 34.) And to the Care that was taken for Tampering *Scotland* into a *Rebellion*; as appears in Several *Other Parts* of his *Depositions*. The *Dr.* having made

it

it out upon *Oath* that the *Papists* make use of the *Fanatiques* to compass their *Own Ends* upon the *Government*; So soon as he has done *This*, he gives over the poynt. It must be *My part* now, to *Tack* my *own Observations* to the *Doctors*; and, by shewing, on the *Other hand*, what Advantages the *Schismatiques* make likewise of the *Papists*, for the Compassing of *Their Ends*, to lay open the *Effects* of so *dangerous* a *Complication*. *This Addition* we must take for granted would have been supply'd by the *Dr. himself*, both as a *Loyall Subject* to his *Prince*, and as a *True Son* of the *Establisht Church*, if matters of greater Moment had not taken him off at Mid-way: So that in Truth, This is rather a *Continuation* of the *Drs. Narrative*, then a *Composition* of my *own*. We are not to imagine that These Interests are *Ty'd up* by any Instrument of *Compact*, or *Covenant*; to *Joyn* in a *League Offensive* against the *Government*; but our mischief arises from a *Resemblance* of their *Principles* and not from any *Correspondence* of *Understanding* betwixt them. And yet while they seem to be *blowing up* and *Countermining one another*, they do really destroy *Us*; and it is the *Church* in the *Middle* that *Suffers* by the *Distemper* of the *Two Extremes*.

NOW though I cannot allow it upon any *Terms* that they *help one another* by *Consent*; nothing can be plainer yet then that while they *play*, *each* of them *their Own Game*, the *One* still *leads* into the *Others hand*. If *Popery Influences Schism*, *That Schism* Slides as naturally into *Popery*, as *Motion* from *One* place of *Rest* tends to *another*. There's the *Principle* espoused *allready*, and the *Rest* is only the Changing of the *Name*: The very *Unfixing* of a man is *half* the work done *allready*; for he is so far advanc'd upon his way toward a *new Settlement*. It is a thing worthy of Note, the *different manner* of dealing with the Church of *Rome*, betwixt the *Episcopall Clergy*, and the *Non Conformist*; The *Former* proceed by Dint of *Argument*, the *Other* only by *Opprobrious* Clamour, and *Reviling*; and for

one fair Blow at the *Pope*, they make a *hundred Rude ones* at the *Biſhops*; and (which is yet a *fouler Scandal*) the moſt *Eminent*, and *Venerable Champions* that ever put Pen to Paper in the *Defence* of the *Reformed Communion*, have been the Perſons which they have ſtill ſingled out for the Subject of their *Exemplary Cruelty*, and *Rigor*, which ſhews that their (*Pretended*) *Quarrell* is to the *Name* rather then to the *Opinion*. I call it a *Pretended* one: For if they Quarrell in *Earneſt* with the *Name* of *Popery*, they fall foul upon the *Beſt Friend* they have in the *World*: For it is *That ſingle Pretext* that *Supports* their *Cauſe*. It is obſervable alſo on the Other ſide; that notwithſtanding all their *Fierce* and *Virulent Exclamations* againſt *Prieſts* and *Jeſuits*, the Church of *Rome* does not vouchſafe them ſo much as one ſyllable in Return; and the Reaſon is This; The *Conventicles* are doing the *Papiſts buſineſs* to their *hands*: and the *Enlarging* of the *Schiſm* is the readyeſt way imaginable for the *bringing in* of *Popery*: So that it is but *Commuting* a *Real Service* for a little *Dirty Language*.

BUT is it *True* then, that the *Popiſh Emiſſaryes* are ſo *buſy*, and bear ſo great a *ſway* among Our *Diſſenters*? Yes (ſays Dr. *Oates* in his *Dedicatory* to the King) *They were the Firſt Authours* and *Contrivers of the Late Unnatural War*; *and of his Late Majeſtyes Unſpeakable Sufferings and Barbarous Uſage. It was Theſe* (ſays the *Dr.*) *that brought him to his end*, &c. And again, *They were in moſt, if not all the Councells that Contriv'd his Ruine. Two Jeſuits* (*Simmons* and *Compton*) *were to pay the* Thouſand Pound *promiſed to the Diſcoverer of the King after the Battle of* Worceſter, *and* Milton *was a Known Frequenter of a* Popiſh Club; Lambert *a* Papiſt *of above Thirty years ſtanding. What promiſes* (ſays the *Dr.* again) *did they make to* Cromwell *after his Majeſtyes Eſcape*, to *perſwade the* French King *for Our Sovereigns* Baniſhment *out of* France?

AND

AND is not This now as clear an Evidence as a body would wiſh, to prove the *Induſtry*, the *Power*, and the *Malice* of *That Reſtleſſe Party*; and to ſhew how they were *In* at *all Deſtructive Plots* and *Councells*? Was it not a ſtrange zeal too, that when *Cromwell* was *Maſter* of the *three Kingdoms*, and had ſo great an *Intereſt* at *Stake*; the *King* might have *Scap'd* yet for want of a *Price* upon his *Head*, if Father *Simmons* and *Compton* had not engaged for the *Thouſand pound Reward* that was promiſed to Him that would deliver him up? Nay they were fain to Quicken *Cromwell himſelf*, to get the *King Baniſht* out of *France*. Which ſhews *Firſt*, that the *Papiſts* truſted more to their *Power* with *Cromwell*, though a *Schiſmatique*, then to their *Power* with the *French King*, tho' a *Roman Catholique*. And *Secoudly*, That they thought the *French King* would do more for a *Schiſme*, then for the *Holy Church it ſelf*: Which Implies a High Degree of *Mutuall Confidence* betwixt *Their Prieſts* and *Our Diſſenters*.

IT is a Common Objection in This Caſe, that the *Dr.* is too *young* to ſpeak many of theſe things upon *Knowledge*; and that it would have been well, if he had produced ſome *Hiſtoricall Authority* in *Confirmation* of the Reports, that *Lambert* was a *Papiſt*, and *Milton* a *Frequenter of a Popiſh Club*: And ſo in other like Caſes. This is a doubt eaſily Reſolved, for the thing it *ſelf* being a *Privacy* in *its own Nature*, It was only *Proper* for the *Regiſtries* of the *Society*, and not of a quality to be Inſerted into Our *Publique Annals*. The *Dr.* tells us Further, (*Pag.* 29.) that *Father* Moor *and* Brown *were ſent into* Scotland, *with Inſtructions to carry themſelves like* Non conformiſt Miniſters, *and to Preach to the* Diſaffected Scots, *&c.* He tells us likewiſe (*Pag.* 67.) of *Seditious Preachers*, and *Catechiſts*, *ſet up*, *ſent out*, *maintained*, *and directed what to Preach in their Own*, *or Other Private Conventicles*, *and Field meetings*, &c. Now *This*, I am told, is no Proof of the thing *Done*; but only of a *Propoſition* and Deſign for

the doing of it. But yet we find in the *Drs.* Reflexions upon the Late Times, that the thing was there *really done*; and *Pag.* 8. that *Blundel* did *actually* teach *Treason* in severall places of *London.*

NOW if it be *True*, (As who dares *question* what the *Dr. Averrs*?) that the *Papists* managed the *Separatists* in the late War; and that all Our Miseries proceeded from the Influence of *Their Councells*; and that they are at This day, as *Active*, and as *Powerfull* as *ever*: It follows, that the *Danger* is as great *Now*, as *ever* it *was*; and that there is no security for This Nation, so long as the *Agents* for *Popery* have *This Retreat.* We should never have known that the *Papists* had had so great a hand in Our *late Broils*; and in the *Counsell*, and *Execution* of the *Murther* of the *Late King*; if Dr. *Oates* had not *Discover'd* it. For the *Late King himself* knew *nothing* of it; and all the *Memorialls* we have of those Times, even from the most *Popular Writers*, are wholly *Silent* in it, in such sort as we find it, Here to be represented. There was a Seditious Clamour, I remember, against *an Army of Papists*, (as they call'd them,) that were on the *Kings side*; but not One word of a *Papist* that was to be found among the *Schismatiques*, in their *Conventicles*; Nor should I readily believe the Story at *large*, as it is now *Reported*, if any man but Dr. *Oates* had said it. I have run through the *List* of the *Regicides*; I have had Opportunities of knowing the *Principal men* of the *Party*; and tracing all their *Committees*; and I cannot say that I found any *one man* upon *That Roll*, whom I so much as *suspected* for a *Papist.* So long as the work went Smoothly on, they call'd themselves (I remember) a *Covenanting*, a *Fasting* and a *Praying People*: But so soon as ever the *Wind Turn'd*, the *Godly Party* was presently *Transform'd*; and those that I took before for *Dissenting Protestants*, are now made appear to have been, the greater Part of them, *Priests*, and *Jesuits.* It seems to be somewhat Unequally Divided, that the *Schismatiques*

tiques ſhould have the *Benefit*, and the *Papiſts* Support all the *Scandall* of the *Rebellion*; Would it not be better to let them fairly ſhare the *Profit* and the *Loſſe*, betwixt them? And That's the Drs. *ſenſe too*; for he does not deny but that the *Separatiſts Acted Their Parts* alſo: tho' only as men *Impoſed* upon, and *Outwitted*, and under the *Guidance*, and *Direction* of the *Papiſts*.

I ſhall now Appeal to any man: that has either *Seen*, or *diligently read* the Tranſactions of *Thoſe Times*, whether or no he could ever have imagined that ſuch a world of *Prieſts*, and *Papiſts* had worm'd themſelves into the *Councells* and *Congregations* of *That Faction*, as the *Dr.* now Aſſures us there did. And what was the buſineſs, but *This*? The *Papiſts* carry'd the matter ſo *Cloſe*, and lookt ſo like *Schiſmatiques*, that it was morally Impoſſible to diſcern the *One* from the *Other*, Now upon the Admiſſion of *the ſame Mixture*, and *Danger*, at preſent, and *the ſame difficulty* likewiſe of *diſtinguiſhing* a *Diſguiſed Papiſt* from an *Outlying Proteſtant*; we are loſt unleſs we abſolutely *Clear* thoſe *Kennells*, ſince there is no *Purging* of them. And the means of doing it, is *Fair*, *Honeſt*, and *Obvious*; and I would ſay, (if I durſt open my Mouth ſo wide) of *ABSOLUTE NECESSITY* too. *Let but the Laws be vigorouſly put in Execution, and the great Work is done.* We ſhall not need to declaim upon the *Probable Inconveniences* that will ariſe from a longer ſufferance of *This Licenſe*: But we ſhall in good time ſhew the *Approaches* they have already made, toward the *Government*; and that the *Non-Conformiſts* make as good uſe of the *Papiſts*, *One way*, as the *Papiſts* do of the *Non-Conformiſts*, Another.

THE *Encreaſe* of the *Schiſm* is the True meaſure of the *Churches Detriment*; for the *One Looſes* juſt as much as the *Other Gets*. But the greateſt miſchief of all is the Diſſolution of *Order*; For it is not only the *Double Loſſe* and *Diſadvantage* of ſo many *Friends*, *degenerated* into as many

Enemies; but the *Looſening* of the *Band* makes all fly to *pieces*; And turns That *Community* into a *Multitude*, which, ere while, was a *Government*. And *This Diſſolution* does highly gratify our *Adverſaryes*, on *Both hands*; for Once out of Diſcipline, we are as bad as out of *Protection*: and in the Condition of a routed *Army*, when *Twenty men* in *Good Order* Value a *Thouſand Fugitives*; For *Our Strength*, as well as Our *Reputation* leaves us with our *Union*; and the *Bulwark* of the *Reformation* is left *naked*, and without either *Honour*, or *Defence*. If This ſhould come to be the Caſe, what can we expect, but either to be at the *Mercy* of a *Forreigner*, or for want of a *Common Enemy* to become a *Prey* to *one another*? It is as natural, This, (though we know it upon *Experiment* too) as it is for *one Grain of Sand* to fall from *Another*, for want of a *Morter*, or *Ciment* to bind them *together*: Or as it is for poynt blank *Contradictions* to *Croſſe one Another*. And when the day of Controverſy comes, what will all the *Fractions* of *Diſſenting Proteſtants* ſignify, more, then ſo many *Looſe Atoms* that will need a *more miraculous Concourſe* of *Accidents* then ever the Philoſopher dreamt of, to Jumble them into a *Body*. I will not deny but that they may ſo far *Unite* as to make head againſt a *Common Danger*; but they muſt live then like *Salamanders*, allways in the fire; as being by their very *Principles* in a perpetual State of *War*; *Impatient* of *one another*, and conſequently *Incapable* of any *Political Eſtabliſhment*. He that thinks otherwiſe needs only look behind him to be convinc'd; where he will finde, that thorough all the late Turns and Changes of State, the Prevailing Party did ſtill ſet up for it ſelf, to the Excluſion of all Others: Endeavouring to *Erect* a *New Government*, by *Order*, and *Reſtraint*, out of the *Ruines* of the *Old one*, which they had *deſtroy'd* by *Liberty*, and *Confuſion*. How wretched now is the Condition of thoſe people who by dividing themſelves, (upon meer *Capricio's*) from *Regular Societys*, do

do in effect, cut themselves off from their Claim to the Ordinary Comforts of *Providence*, and *Nature*; turning *Peace it self* into a Curse, which to all men in their Right Wits is undoubtedly the greatest of *Blessings*.

AFTER a *long*, and I hope not (altogether) an *Impertinent Preface*, I shall now draw neer to my *Text*. The *Kings Wittnesses* have given Evidence of a *Popish Conspiracy*; and not only of a *Conspiracy* carry'd on among *Themselves*, but of a *Practice* also upon the *Schismatiques*, by casting of *Scruples* into their Heads; by Instilling *dangerous Positions*: by *Preaching*, in fine, & *Catechising* among them in *Disguises*; to Embroil the *Government*. Now let the World bear me Witness that I have nothing at all to do with the *Original Plot*; or the *Priests* Artifices of *Moulding*, and *Cajolling* the *Dissenters* any further then in a resignation to *Truth* and *Authority*: My purpose being only to set forth the *Improvements* that have been made, under the *Cover* of *One Plot*, toward the *Advancing* of *Another*. I shall Date This my *Narrative* from the *Transmigration* of the *Conspiracy*; and so carry it on through all the *steps* of its *Progression*; as the *Manner* of *Representing* matters, the *Probable Intent*, and *Effect* of That way of Proceeding; The *Translating* of a *Popular Odium*, from the *Papists*, to the *Government*, and so mounting by degrees from a *Zeal* against *Popery*, to a *Sedition* against the *State*.

IT is no Lessening of This Execrable *Plot*, to say that *Subjects* ought dutyfully to *acquiesce* in the Resolutions of their *Superiours*: And that all Clamorous *Appeals* from the *Magistrate* to the *Multitude* are only so far pardonable, as the Abundance of *Good will* may help to excuse the want of *Moderation* and *Discretion*. So that a great part of those *Fierce* and *Unmannerly Transports* that have been employ'd upon This Unhappy Occasion, and without any regard, either to *Quality* or *Sex*, or, in truth, to the very *Foundations* of *Christian Charity*, might have been much

much better let alone; since they serve only to *enflame* the *Vulgar*, without any sort of *avail* to the Cause in *question*. It is no better, then either a Translating of the *Judicature* from the *King* and his *Courts of Justice* to the *Rabble*; or else a *Complaint* to the *People* brought in with a side-winde, against the *Government*; which are two dangerous Points; striking at his Majesties *Sovereignty* the *One* way, and at his *Reputation* the *Other*: And yet all This is Tolerable, if it goes off so; and without blowing up a *Passion* into a *Designe*. But we shall better understand the *Drift* of it by the *Sequele*. If it rests Here, it is only a *laudable Zeal Ill manag'd*: For it is not the *Cutting Strictures* of a *sharp Tongue* or a *Virulent Pen*, but the *Sober* and *Impassionate* Sentence of *Law*; that by *Prisons*, *Axes*, and *Gibbets*, *determines These Controversies*. In one word, let them vent their Indignation against the *Principles* and *Practices* of the Church of *Rome*, in what Terms they please, and make *Popery* as *Odious* as they can, provided that they do not encourage *Tumults*; and that they contain their *Passions* within the Bounds of *Truth* and *Justice*. If they once passe those Limits, *Knowingly*, and by *Consent*, 'tis no longer *Zeal*, but *Confederacy*.

This Caution of keeping so strictly to the Rules of *Truth*, and *Justice*, has a respect, First, to the *manner* of representing both *Persons*, and *Things*; and Secondly, to the matter *of Fact*. Now if to the *Intemperance* of *Words* there be added a *Malitious Aggravation* of *Circumstances*, with *Fiction*, and *Imposture* over and above; 'tis to be fear'd that all is not right at the bottom. I shall be here encounter'd with a *Reproof*, for being so *Tender*, forsooth, of the *Reputation* of the *Papists*; and yet any man that is not *Intoxicated* with *Popular Fumes*, or led *Hood-winkt* into a *False Conception* of things, must necessarily see, that my great Concernment is for the *Honour* and *Dignity* of *Christians*; It being our Duty, to proceed according to the measures of *Good Faith*, and *Justice*, even with the

the *worſt* of *Infidels*. But people you'l ſay may be *miſtaken*, and give *Credit* to *Falſe Reports*, without either *Malice* or *Deſigne*. This is Confeſt, and none of thoſe Errours ſhall be put to account. If you ask me, *To what End*? Or, *What's the Benefit* of Impoſing theſe *Flams* upon the *Nation*? It is eaſily Anſwer'd, *Firſt*, that the *Plying* of the *Multitude* perpetually with *Allarms*, and *Terrors*, does in a manner turn their very *Brains*, take away their *Judgements*, and render them fit *Inſtruments* for the *boldeſt*, and moſt *Unwarrantable Undertakings*. So ſoon as they are once touch't in the Crown with Theſe Conceipts: 'tis but Sadling their Noſes with a pair of *State-Spectacles*, and you may perſwade them upon *New-Market-Heath* that they are Tumbling down *Dover-Cliff*. *Secondly*, the very *Perſons* that ſo artificially make the People *Sick*, are to reap the Profit of the *Cure*; which is ſuch another kind of *Remedy* as if a man ſhould beat out his *Brains* for fear of the *Headach*. Briefly, they do firſt make the people *Mad*, and then by the Conſent of the *Madmen* they themſelves are made *Governours* of the *Bedlam*. But without any more Deſcanting upon the *Good* or the *Evill*; the *Grounds* or *Conſequences* of Matters; we ſhall now deliver ſome few Inſtances to our preſent purpoſe.

AT the time when Mr. *Powell* the Merchant was ſo long miſſing, what a Rabble of Formal Relations went about then, of his being *Trepann'd* a *Shipboard*, in what *Company*; what *Mony* in his Pocket; what *Forebodings* of his *Fate*: and all terminating in a peremptory Concluſion that he was *Murther'd* by the *Papiſts*; and not ſo few as five and Twenty or Thirty Pamphlets Trumpetting theſe Tidings all over the Kingdom. And yet not one Syllable of Truth in't at laſt.

What a Noyſe was there about Sir *Harry Titchbourn's* Houſe: Even to the very Catalogue of the Arms that

were

were There taken: as 166. *Muskets*, 54. Caſe of *Piſtols*, 37. *Saddles*, 47. *Daggers*, 2. Barrells of *Bullets*, 3. Bundles of *Match*; *Letters* ſent *expreſſe* to Certify the Truth of the Story; and Copies of them diſperſed preſently at St. *Albans*, and elſewhere, without any Colour in the World for the Report. And ſo for the *Herſe* full of *Arms* that was Intercepted at *Banbury*, the *Hampers* of *Fire balls* that were found in the *Savoy*, and *Somerſet-houſe*; which were only certain *Rockets*, *Serpents*, and other *Artificiall Fire-works* which Mr. *Choqueux* had publiquely prepar'd for the Entertainment of a Solemn Feſtival: And yet all theſe *Shams* were blown up and down the Kingdom, by *News letters* and *Printed Libells*, with as much Confidence as if they had been *Articles of Faith*; and no doubt of it, but many Thouſands of his Majeſties good Subjects believe them to This day, for want of being better enformed. What a Buſtle there was about Mr. *Langhorns* being Bury'd in the *Temple*, and what *Remarks* upon the *Government* for ſhewing That Countenance to *Papiſts*? And upon the perſons alſo that Aſſiſted at That Funeral; when all This while, there was no more in the Caſe then only the Body of a Gentleman that dy'd in *Holburn*, and was There Interr'd, upon the night to the day of Mr. *Langhorns Execution*.

THE Hiſtory of *Bedingfields* being privately Convey'd out of the *Gate-houſe*, and a *Dead Body* left in his *place*, paſt ſo *Current*, that Sir *William Waller himſelf* (tho' he perhaps could ſmell a *Jeſuit* as far as *another body*) took a long Journy into the *North* upon't, to catch *the wrong Bedingfield*. The Circumſtances of that Adventure would be too Comicall for This place. We could tell you the Conduct of the whole Stratagem, and what names here at *London* went into the *Black Book* for not *believing* it. A man would really bleſſe himſelf to ſee the *Romances*, the *Gloſſes*, and the *Scurrilous Buffoneries* that were publiſhed by the *Ribald Scriblers* here about the Town, upon This Subject.

But

BUT then, the landing of *Forty Thouſand French* upon the Ile of *Purbeck*, ſhook the very Foundations of the Earth: The Factions drew preſently into *Cabals*, upon the Tidings of it, with Horrible and Contumelious Reflections upon Thoſe in Authority, as Parties to the Conſpiracy. At *Coventry* they brake up the *Market* upon the News on't; and the Common people Immediately divided into Knots, and Conſultations; ſome of them coming very Fayrly to This Reſolution, that *there was no way but cutting the* Papiſts Throats, *to hinder them from* Joyning. But This Advice was ſoon Contradicted, and ſo the Miſchief went no farther: Who knows what This Invention might have produc'd, if the Credit of it had continued but four and twenty Hours longer?

THE moſt Formidable Story of All, is the *Conſpiracy* of the *Prentices:* and there was ſuch Work made with *Capt. Tom*, as if the *Grand Seignior* had been powring down *Highgate Hill* with a hundred and fifty thouſand men at's heels. There were ſo many *Thouſands* of them upon the *liſt* by *Tale* and moſt of them *Papiſts* too; An account of what *Contributions* to the *Charge*, (alas!) of a *Three penny* or *Groat-Clubb*; whoſe *Throats* were to be Cut; and through what *Conſtables Teritoryes* they were to take their *March*; and This *Scandal* upon the Body of this *Loyal*, and *Honourable City*, expoſed in *Ballads* and *Libells* by every raſcally *Pamphletier*. And what was all This mighty matter at laſt, but a parcell of good Jolly Ladds that had been buſy at the burning of the *Pope*, and prevail'd upon to ſet their hands to the *Petition* that was then afoot? Theſe Blades, finding that the Petition had given Offence, propounded the doing ſomething on the Other Side too, that might ſhew they were neither *Fanatiques*, nor *Papiſts*; and ſo they gave publique Notice in *Thompſons Intelligence* of *their* Intentions upon the *Anniverſary* of his Majeſtys *Reſtauration* to burn the *Rump*. The Firſt time perhaps that ever a Conſpiracy againſt

the Government was notified in a *News-Book*. I shall now shew you in an Instance or two, how bold they make with the *Kings Wittnesses*, as well as with the *rest* of his Majestys Subjects; and what *Slurs* they put upon the World (the *Citizens* of *London* Especially) under the *Countenance* of the *Plot*, and *Authority* of the *Kings Evidence*.

THERE'S a *Pamphlet* entitled, *A Narrative of unheard of* Popish Cruelties *toward* Protestants *beyond Seas*: *Or a New Account of the Bloody* Spanish Inquisition, *Published as a* Caveat *to* Protestants, by Mr. *Dugdale*. Printed for, *&c.*

THIS *New Account* (as I am credibly Inform'd) is only an *Old thing Reprinted*; The Subject Suited to the Humour of the present Season, and *Mr. Dugdale* upon the *Title-Page* exhibited as the *Authour* of it, and *Ric. Dugdale* Subscribed to the *Dedication*. This was the *Second Slur* that past the *Presse* under That name. The *First Impression* went off Clear with Mr. *Richard Dugdale* in the *Title page*, as the Composition of *Mr. Dugdale* the *Witnesse*; but the *Bookseller* finding the busineſſe to be *Smoakt*, the *Wittnesses* name being taken notice of to be *Stephen*, and not *Richard*, he very prudently left out the *Christen name* in the *Second Impression*, and made it only *Mr. Dugdale*, and so it went for the *Witnesses* again. His work being only to find out a *Witnesses Namesake*, by great good Fortune he pitcht upon an *Alehouse-keeper* in *Southwark* of *That Name*, to carry off his Project; and the man (as I am told) is a very Honest man. Now here are *Three Abuses* fobb'd upon us at *once*, *First*, an *Old Book* for a *New one*; *Secondly*, one that knows *nothing* of the matter in *question*, under the Semblance of one of the *Kings Wittnesses*. And *Thirdly* the Counterfeit of a *False Authour*. But the most remarkable piece of all is yet to come.

IT was my Hap, ſome three or four Months ſince, to caſt my Eye upon a Book, Entitled, *A Narrative and Impartial Diſcovery of the Horrid Popiſh Plot: carry'd on for the Burning and Deſtroying of the Cities of* London *and* Weſtminſter, *with their Suburbs*, &c. *And Dedicated to the Surviving Citizens of* London *ruin'd by Fire*, &c. I came to This Pamphlet with Expectation of ſome Notable Diſcovery; eſpecially finding a Promiſe in the Title page of *Depoſitions*, and *Informations* NEVER BEFORE PRINTED: But when upon the Peruſal, I found the *Narrative part* of it to be taken, *Verbatim* almoſt, out of two or three *old Seditious Libells* againſt the *Government*, that were printed by Stealth, ſome *ten* or *a dozen years agoe*, (before Mr. *Bedloes* time of Action) and ſcatter'd up and down in moſt of the Publique Houſes upon the great Roads of *England*, by *half a ſcore* ſometimes in a *place*, according to the Ordinary Methods of the Faction in ſuch Caſes; I made a ſtrict Enquiry into the matter, and this was the buſineſs.

There was a *Conſult* of *three or four Bookſellers* over a bottle of Wine, what *Subject* a man might venture upon at That time, for a *Selling Copy*: One of the Company was of Opinion that a Book of the *Fires* would make *a Smart Touch*; and ſo they all agreed upon't; and propounded to get ſome of the *Kings Wittneſſes hands* to't. Naming firſt *one*, and then *another*, they came at length to a Reſolution, and pitch't upon *Trap ad Crucem*, and *The Hiſtory of the Fires*; as two books that would afford matter enough, if they could but get them put into a Method, and have a Certain perſons hand to the Owning of them. Hereupon they apply'd themſelves to One to draw up the Story; and ſo it went to the *Preſs* under his hand, all but what was *Printed Copy*; and he made *Several Alterations* too in the *Epiſtle*, out of his own head, after it was *compoſed* at the *Preſſe*. So that here are a *Couple* of *Old Libells* turn'd into a *New Narrative*, and *the*

Kings Magiſtrates, and *Officers defam'd afreſh*, and the menage of *This Scandal* committed to the hand of a *Common Calumniator*. As to what Concerns Mr. *Bedloes Evidence* I have nothing to Say; nor to the *Papiſts* burning the City; nor to any one poynt in the Pamphlet which *Mr. Bedloe* can pretend to Speak to upon Knowledge; but This I ſhall Say; that there are *Several Groundleſs* and *dangerous Paſſages* in it; and that the moſt *Inflaming* and *Seditious* of them are only *Libels* of *Ancient Date*, *Reprinted*; That it was a *Contrivance* Set afoot by *Bookſellers* for *Profit*, drawn up according to their *Order* and *Direction*, and an *Abuſe* in the very *Original Intendment*: The *Citizens* and the *Kings Witneſſes* being only propounded as a *Property* toward the gaining of it ſome *Reputation*.

IT is Sufficiently known, with what *Greedineſs* Theſe, and a Thouſand other *Impoſtures*, and *Aggravations* have been Swallow'd by the Common people; and made uſe of as Inſtances to Illuſtrate and Confirm the Plot. But What? you'l Say, There's a *Mourneval* of *Bookſellers* upon a Tryal of Skill in their Own Trade: *One Knave Invents* a Story, and a *Thouſand Fools Believe* it. How does all This amount to the Proof of a *Faction*? Why truly; tho' it looks very Suſpiciouſly, conſidering *Who* they are that *Advance* and *encourage*, and the *Intereſt* that is *promoted* by theſe *Miſtakes*: Conſidering alſo with what *Violence*, and *Induſtry* they are carry'd on, and that the Cry too runs all one way: I ſhall yet content my ſelf with a *Probable Surmiſe* that there may be a *Factious Intent*. As if I ſhould See a man riding Poſt from *Barnet* towards *London*, I would lay ten to One that This man is going for *London*; and yet 'tis not Impoſſible neither but he may take up by the way: if I finde afterward that he went *thorough*, I ſhould think it a hundred to one that his purpoſe was for *London*, when he *Firſt* Set out: This is the very Caſe. *Theſe Practices* are the *High way* to *Sedition*, and 'tis Ten to One that they'l come up to't at laſt:

which

which if they do 'tis a Hundred to One that they *Deſign'd* it, from the Beginning.

IT is a very Ill Sign too, the *Fierceneſſe* of the *Abettors* of theſe *Shameleſſe*, and *Ridiculous Forgerys* againſt any man that has not Faith enough to believe that *the Moon is made of Green Cheeſe:* And This they call a *Ridiculing* of the *Plot*; and *making Sport* with *Sentences* of *Parliament*, and *Judicial Proceedings*. I would fain ſee where either the *King*, the *Parliament*, or any *Court of Juſtice* has *verify'd* any Single poynt that I have *reflected* upon: And I defy the Devil himſelf, in any of his Servants, to Say wherein I have not pay'd all *due Reſpects*, as well to the *Perſons* of the *Kings Witneſſes*, as to their *Evidence*. What *Diminution* is it to *Dr. Oates* his *Narrative*, to ſay that the *Contrivances* of the *Mercenary Book-ſellers*, and *Scriblers* herein mentioned are *Shams*. What *Contradiction* or *Abatement* is it to the *Truth*, or *Credit* of the *Popiſh Plot*, to ſhew that there is a *Schiſmatical Plot* afoot too; and that *One* moves under the Countenance of *Another:* Now to *Pretend* a *Plot*, where there is *None*, is next door to the *Denyal* of it where it *Is*. Shall any man Argue that the *Diſparagement* of a *Juggle*, *weakens* a *Truth*? *Sr. Edmondbury Godfrey* was never the Leſs *Murther'd*, becauſe *Mr. Powel eſcaped*. Shall any man Infer That there were *no black Bills* Provided, becauſe there were no Arms found in *Sr Henry Titchburns* houſe? Or becauſe the *Prentices* were but in *Jeaſt*, that therefore the *Bloudy Pilgrims* were not in *Earneſt*: The *Juſtification* of *Mr. Choqueux's Fireworks* has no effect at all upon the *Teuxbury muſtard-Balls*. What is my Affirming that *Langhorn* was *not Bury'd* in the *Temple*, to the Buſineſs of *Valladolid*, or *Salamanca*? The *Herſe* of *Arms* was a *Flam*. And what Then? muſt the *Evidence* therefore of the *Piſtol* and the *Dagger* be one *too*? And I would fain know what Relation *Bedingfields* eſcape out of the *Gatehouſe*, (after he was Dead) has to the *Conſult* at the *White horſe Tavern* in the *Strand*.

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As to the *Popish Plot* that is Sworn by the *Kings Witnesses*, I lay my *Faith* at their Feet, without any further *Enquiry*, or *Dispute*. But where I finde Rank and Palpable *Falshoods* and *Contrivances* Imposed upon the World for Certain *Truths*, and nothing but *Passion* and *Confidence* to Support them; I reckon my Self bound in Duty (so far as in me lyes) to lay open the Abuse. For this way of *Bruiting* up a *Plot* where there is *none*, is a Design of a most dangerous Consequence, and a Snare to all Honest men. It is a kinde of *Experiment* upon the Humour of the Multitude, to try what they will Bear, and whether they be yet mad enough or not, to swallow *Impostures* without *examining*. If they finde the People in Tune for their Purpose, and Charm'd into such an awe, that at the very *name* of a *Plot* they shall *Dare* like *Larks* under the dread, even of a *Painted Hobby*; There's the *Foundation* of a *Civill War*, and an *Arbitrary Power* layd allready. They shall make what *Plots*, and what *Plotters* they please; and every man that stands in their way, shall be a *Papist* or a *Traytor*, according as they think fit to represent him to the Rabble. If this be the fruit of being *given over to believe Lyes*, we have great reason sure to take all possible Care that we be not *deluded*, and to distinguish betwixt the voyce of *Authority*, and That of *Rumour*. The Common way of *Reply* upon *This Topique* is to break out into *Exclamations*, and to hit a man in the Teeth with the *Sham* of the *Meale-Tub*, and Twenty Such Fooleries; as if there were no more in the business then a *Malicious Imagination*; and only a more colourable Invention to *discredit* a *Real Plot*, under *pretence* of a *Counterfeit*, and casting a Mist before the Peoples Eyes, that they should not know one from t'other. My Answer is Short; that we have the matter of *Fact* in proof Here before us: That the *True Plot* and the *Counterfeit* are in such manner *Separated*, that the One is not at all in *dispute*, and the other is *Condemn'd*. And we shall now shew you

what

what uſe is made by a Faction under the *Diſguiſe* of *proſecuting Papiſts*, to *Defame*, and to *Deſtroy* ſeveral of his Majeſtys *Loyall Subjects* and *Church of England Proteſtants*. For let a mans *Actions*, his *Converſation*, his *Religion* be what they will, 'tis but beſmearing him with the Scandal of being *Popiſhly-Affected*, and his Work is done. There is a kinde of *Spell* in the Word *Popery*. It tranſforms a *Man* into a *Beaſt*: And like the *Great Medicine*, it turns whatever it touches into *Plot*. If a man will not believe it to be *Chriſtmaſſe* at *Midſumer*, he's in the *Plot*; If he loves his *Church*, his *Prince*, and his *Country*, and ſtands for a *Bargeſſe* or a *Common Councell-man*, 'tis but Saying that he's *Popiſhly affected*, and he becomes preſently as an *Heathen* or a *Publican*. If he refuſes to *Aſſociate*, or *Petition*, he ſhall be *Markt*; and well too if he ſcape So; For we have gotten a Trick, when men will not do as we would have them, of laying them up for *Treaſon*; (no matter for *Evidence*) and when we have put them out of Reach of a *Habeas Corpus*, 'tis but ſhewing them a Fayr payr of Heels our Selves, and leaving Them to Struggle with the Law. As for Example.

ON the 6th of *April* laſt, about 7. in the Morning, *Major Ovington* and *Mr. Thomas King* were taken out of their Beds and Charged with *High Treaſon*; their Boxes and Papers Rifled, and Themſelves Examin'd apart; but nothing of Ill appeared againſt them. The *Magiſtrate* began with the *Major*; and when he had try'd both by fair means and foul, to get him to ſign ſuch Papers and Informations as he himſelf had ready drawn; finding that he would not be wrought upon, he left the *Major*, and went to *Mr. King*, telling him how ſorry he was to ſee him drawn into ſuch a horrid Buſineſs: How that his Majeſty had the matter before him, and that there were 6. or 7. Wittneſſes that appear'd againſt him. *Mr. King*,

in

in great Admiration, askt what this mighty buſineſſe might be: but he went back to the *Major*, without giving any Reply: and after a little while return'd to *Mr. King*. Major Ovington (Says he) *has dealt Generouſly with me, and he ſhall fare the better for't; for I do not deſire the Deſtruction of any man:* But ſtill profeſſing more kindneſſe to *Mr. King*, for his Fathers Sake, and looking upon Him as a Perſon only drawn in. So he preſt *Mr. King* to a Confeſſion, and told him, if he would but Subſcribe Such a Paper as he would draw up, and knew to be True, he would not Commit him, and it ſhould be the better for him. *Mr. King* askt him what he would be at, and told him that if the *Major* had charg'd him with any Ill thing toward the *King*, or the *Government*, he was an Unworthy man. Whereupon he went his way, and Committed the *Major* to the *Gate-houſe*.

The *Magiſtrate* having left Mr. *King* at his own Houſe, came back to him immediatly, and told him, *tis well Mr. King* (ſays he) *that you are faln into my hands, for if I pleaſe, there's but a ſtep betwixt You and Death; I am loth to Commit you, becauſe I know it will be your Ruine; every thing being made out ſo clear againſt you*; Mr. *King* ſtill urging to know what all This meant, the *Magiſtrate* went to the further end of the room, and fell to writing; Mr. *King*, being deſirous to ſee what he wrote; He held the Paper in his hand and ask'd him if he did not know of a Deſign to Seize the *Tower*, and reſcue the *Lords*; and ſeverall other lewd Things. To which Mr. *King* reply'd, that it was all *Villany*. The *Magiſtrate* gave Mr. *King* a Bottle of *Syder*, and Treated him with an Appearance of much kindneſſe. After a while, he took Mr. *King* in his Arms; telling him he ſaw he was reſolv'd upon his Own Ruine. Mr. *King* deſir'd that he might apply himſelf to the *Secretaries of State* to be *Examined* by *Them*; which the Magiſtrate took Ill, pretending that his Majeſty had left the buſ'neſſe to Him. He was trying a long time to prevail

prevail upon Mr. *King* to ſwear againſt *Major Ovington*; but not ſucceeding, he threaten'd to lay him in Irons; and ſo Committed him to the *Gate-houſe*, with Order to the Keeper, that the Gentlemen ſhould not come together, nor receive any Meſſage, without having taken any Examination upon Oath, before his Commitment; neither after it, was there one word of Treaſon Sworn againſt him. He was Committed betwixt Twelve and One upon the 6th, and the *Depoſition* againſt him was taken the day after he was Committed, at the *Rheniſh-wine houſe* in *Channell Row*, Threatning alſo to lay the Witneſſe, in *Irons*, if he would not Depoſe what he the Magiſtrate had drawn up. The Coppy of the *Mittimus* follows.

WHEREAS Oath hath been made before Me, that the Perſon I herewith ſend in Cuſtody to you (Mr. Thomas King) **hath Treaſonably contrived a Rebellion, and falſly Deſigned the accuſing ſeverall of his Majeſties Loyal Peers and Subjects of the ſaid Treaſon. Theſe are therefore to Will and require you in his Majeſties Name to receive and Keep the Body of the ſaid** Thomas King **in ſafe Cuſtody. untill he ſhall be Diſcharged by due Courſe of Law.** Given under my Hand and Seal the 6th Day of *April.* 1680.

THESE Gentlemen being brought into the Court by their *Habeas Corpus* the next Term, the profecution was lookt upon to be *Illegal*, and *Ridiculous*, to the higheſt Degree; there appearing no colour from the *Information*, or *Examination*, either for the *matter* Charg'd upon them, or ſo much as the bare *Commitment*; Only it was obſerv'd, that beſide the *Injuſtice* of a *Commitment* without *Evidence*, the Crime was laid *Treaſon*, on purpoſe that they might not be bail'd in the *Vacation*.

THIS I hope will not be deny'd to have been a *Sham-Plot*; and promoted by a *Faction* too: For it was the work of Twenty Libells to defend the Proceeding: The Perſons *accuſed* are Gentlemen of approved *Loyalty*, Fair and Honourable *Converſation*, and men zealouſly affected to the Church of *England*. There was an attempt made by the ſame Magiſtrate at the ſame time upon another Gentleman in the ſame Houſe, (a *Cavalier* of unqueſtionable *Loyalty* and *Honour*) and upon a like pretence too; But That *Trepan* was let fall again.

HERE'S the Fruit of taking up *Plots* upon *Truſt*; and running Headlong from the *Fear*, nay, from the very *Name* of *Popery*, into the *Thing it ſelf*. Let any man ſhew me a more *Imperious Tyranny*, if he can, or a more *Implicite Faith*; then for men to be worſe then *Spirited* away thus, *contrary* to the *Law*, and *without Remedy*; and and run down for *Criminals* by a *Popular Conſent*, without underſtanding one Syllable of the matter in *queſtion*. Theſe *Practices* and *Exceſſes* are the Subject of my *Narrative*; and ſo far from miſrepreſenting the *Popiſh Plot*, that there is not any ſort of Correſpondence, in This Caſe, betwixt the *One*, and the *Other*. And I defy any man to ſhew, whereever I let fall ſo much as One word of the *Popiſh Plot*, but with a modeſt and due Reſpect to the Government. Neither, in effect, am I become the Mark of every Paultry Libeller, for reflecting upon the *Reality* of the *One Plot*; but for the expoſing the *Juggle* of

of the *Other*. And it is Time certainly for every man to look about him, when our *Lives*, *Liberties*, and *Fortunes* lye all at *mercy*; and every Honeſt man expos'd to the Animoſities of *Faction*, and *Revenge*: For we are not judg'd by what we *are* in Our *Selves*, in Our *Converſations*, and *Opinions*; but by what we are *ſaid* to be. What becomes of *Magna Charta*, at This rate, and the *Priviledges* of an *Engliſh mans Birth right*? If men ſhall be hurry'd into *Jayls* without *Evidence*, becauſe they will not Subſcribe either *Confeſſions*, or *Accuſations*, touching matters which they know nothing of, and *Witneſſes* Tamper'd afterward by *Menaces*, for *Proofs ex poſt Facto*, to colour ſuch *Illegal Commitments*? We have had but too much of This allready; and no body knows whoſe Turn it may be next: Since what was the Caſe of theſe Gentlemen, may be any mans.

DOES it not behove us, now, to diſtinguiſh betwixt *Reaſon*, and *Clamour*; betwixt *Truth*, and *Calumny*, betwixt the Acts of *Authority*, and the Licenſe of *Tumults*; betwixt the *Juſt* and *Temperate Deliberations* and *Reſolutions* of *Government*, and the *violent Heats* and *Partialityes* of the *Common-people*? How come the *Multitude* to be *Judges* of *Plots*, and *Popery*, more than of *Other Crimes* and *Miſdemeanours*? For That's the *Tribunal* of the *Faction*, where every man is to be made a *Traytor*, or a *Papiſt*, as They think meet. And it is not enough neither to be fairly acquitted upon a *Tryal* before *a Court of Juſtice*; for the *Bench* and the *Jury* are preſently arraign'd upon't by an *Appeal* to the *Rabble*.

It is a great poynt gain'd, where a *Faction* has gotten ſo much the Command of the *People*, as to make them *believe* every thing that They *Say*, and *approve* of every thing that they *do*. There is a *Plot* no doubt on't; but *That Plot* does not yet create *Another Plot*, where there is *no Plot at all*. The *Popiſh Plot* has *Bounds*, and *Limits*; the *Kings Witneſſes* tell us *what* it *is*, and *where*

it *lyes*; and we have had nothing *New* of *That Plot*, now a good while. But this *Imaginary Plot*, is a *Plot* upon a *Perpetual Plot*, and to keep the Nation So long in *Awe* of the *Popiſh Plot*, till the *Faction* may execute *Another Plot* of their *Own*. And what is that *Other Plot* of their *Own*, but, Firſt, to break in upon the *Miniſters* and *Friends* of the *Government*; and Secondly, to undermine the very *Foundations* of it. This is no more *Sayd*, then what their *Practices* make *good*; and the *Series* of the *Deſign* hangs as Naturally, one piece to Another, as if they were but ſo many *Links* of the Same *Chain*.

As to what Concerns the Capital Plot, in the proceedings upon the Conſpirators, and the Subſequent Severityes upon the Papiſts; all This is an Act of the Government. But the *Superfœtation* of *Other Plots*, which neither the *State*, nor the *Witneſſes* take any notice of: *Plots* that have no *Affinity* or *Connexion* with the *Principal*; nor, in Truth, any *Exiſtency* in *Nature*, other then in the *Forge* of a *Phanatical*, and *Republican* Brain. *Theſe Plots* are not ſo *Sacred*, I hope, but a body may ask, Whence they *Come*, and Whither they *Go*, without any Offence, either to *Authority* or *Good manners*. Nay, what if a man ſhould examine them, by what Commiſſion it is, that they change their *Stile*, and render *Papiſts*, in the *Original*, into *Popiſhly-Affected*, in the *Tranſlation?* How it comes, of a *Down right Popiſh-Plot*, to be a *Popiſhly-Affected-Plot?* This ſtretch puts the *Church-of-England-Men* into a worſe Eſtate then the very *Papiſts*. For there are certain *Known* and *Political Conditions*, whereupon a *Papiſt* may come *off*, by ſatisfying the *Law*; But *Popiſhly-Affected* is ſuch a *Drag-Net*, it ſweeps All. In Other Caſes, there muſt be *Probata*, as well as *Allegata*; but Here, the ſimple *Allegation* does a mans bus'neſs; for how is it poſſible for any man to prove a *Negative*, and a *Thought*, which he muſt do, to diſcharge himſelf of being *Popiſhly-affected?*

The

The Common People take *Popiſhly Affected* I know, for one of the Devliſheſt things that can be ſayd of a man; eſpecially as it is dreſt up with *Plots*, *Maſſacres*, *Conflagrations*, &c. to make it the more Terrible. And therefore whenſoever the Faction has a minde to expoſe any man to the Outrages of the *Rabble*, they are pleas'd to give him the Honour of *This Character*; which preſently raiſes the Country upon him, as if he were a *Woolf*, or a *Common Enemy*. Now This Brand of *Popiſhly Affected* is not Set upon a man for any Correſpondency of Dangerous or Erroneous *Principles* that he has with the Church of *Rome*; but they make uſe of it as a *Diſcriminating Mark* betwixt *themſelves* and *Other men*. He that will not *believe* all the *Fooleries* They tell him, nor *joyn* in all the *Iniquityes* that they propound to him: He that will not *Contribute*, *Swear*, *Petition*, *Vote*, *Aſſociate*, as They would have him, That man comes Immediately to be *Popiſhly Affected*. He that Speaks Reverently of the *Dignity*, or the *Perſons* of *Biſhops*; the *Orthodox Clergy*, the Miniſters of *State* and *Juſtice*; the Service-book, the *Rites* and *Appointments* of the *Church* in oppoſition to the *Aſſemblyes-Directory*, with the Practices of their *Slovenly* and *Licentious Conventicles*; That man's *Popiſhly Affected*. To Preach up *Obedience* to *Civil Magiſtrates*; To cry down *Schiſm*; To chuſe a *Good Fryday* rather, or an *Aſhwedneſday*, for a *Faſt*, then a *Whitſon-Tueſday*; to lay more ſtreſſe npon the Oaths of *Allegiance* and *Supremacy*, then the *Solemn League* and *Covenant*; To Advance the *King* above the *Two Houſes*; To deny the *Sovereignty* of the *People*; and to maintain that God is the God of *Order*, and not of *Confuſion*, All This is to be *Popiſhly-Affected*.

But let us now Conſider how This Calumny comes to be taken up; What's the *Drift*, and (if This work goes on) what will Probably be the *Iſſue* of it.

It may be obſerved, that ſo long as we were upon the Scent of *Prieſts* and *Jeſuits*; the *Plot* in *motion*; and that every

every day presented *Fresh Game* of *Papists*, and *Conspiracyes*: So long, I Say the *Faction* joyn'd with the *Government* in a *Common Care*, for the *Peace* and *Safety* of the *Publique*: Only with This Difference; that whereas the *Magistrate* proceeded to the Necessary Punishment of *Offenders*, according to the *Gentle*, and *Impartial Methods* of *Law* and *Justice*: and with *Humanity* and *Compassion* for their *Persons* and *Errours*, the *Faction*, on the Other hand, precipitated all things with *Violence*, and *Clamour*. Not contenting themselves with the bare Oblation of so much *Blood*, for the Satisfaction of *Publique Justice*, unless they turn'd the *Tragedy* into a *Farce* too, and made *Sport* with the *Calamityes* of the *Miserable*. And what was All This *Vehemence* and *Pudder*, but to Elevate the Opinion of their *Zeal* (in proportion to the *Noyse* they made) above all others, and Tacitly to reproach the *Government* for their *Candour*, and *Moderation*.

Nor did they keep themselves within the Bounds of *Inferences*, and *Tacit Implications*, long neither; But so Soon as ever any man came off, whether through the *Insufficiency* of *Proofs*, or the *Incompetency* of *Witnesses*, they flew open-mouth'd in the face of the *Bench* and *Jury*: and in so bold a manner too, as if the *Tribunal* were only to *Hear* the Cause, the *Jury* to stand with their fingers in their mouths, and the *Pit* to *Decide* it? What is become of the *Manhood*, and *Generosity* of the *English Nation*; That we are fal'n into This Insatiate Thirst of *Blood*? Where's our Respect to our *Superiours*; while we thus Arraign *Authority*? Where to our *Selves*, in the Seditious Usurpation of a Right that does not belong to us; and in Contradiction to the Duties of *Allegeance*, and *Common Prudence*? Where to our *Fellow-Subjects*; in our Needless, and Unmannerly Importunities, for more Rigour then the very Letter of the Law will bear? Is This *doing as we would be done by*? Or is it doing either as we *Have been done by*? But I shall now come to the

the *Tranſition* of the *One* Plot into the *Other*, and the turning of *Papiſts* into *Popiſhly-affected*; wherein I muſt diſtinguiſh betwixt the *Words* and *Intent* of *Authority*, and the Unwarrantable *Application* and *Conſtruction* of the *Faction*.

In all Changes of State the Pillars muſt firſt be remov'd, before the Frame of the Government can be diſſolv'd. And therefore 'tis diſcreetly done, for a Faction to begin with *Perſons*, ere they broch their *Opinions*; For it would be a great Over-ſight to pick a quarrel with the *Adminiſtration*, and at the ſame time to be laying of New *Foundations*. It is alſo another point of Skill, *the Running of People down* (as I find it in a *Coffee houſe Authour*) without the Aſſiſtance of the *Penal Statutes*, or the Formality of trying men by their *Peers*. And nothing does That Exploit more effectually, then the Device of *Popiſhly Affected*. It is a ſnare, that all the Precaution in the world cannot avoid; and a moſt Inſenſible ſlip from *Religion*, to *Sedition*; as we find in the Progreſs of our preſent Diſtempers. For the bus'neſs of *Popery* is now in a great meaſure laid aſide; and the *Diſſenters* and *Republicans* at work as hard as they can drive; the *One* to *undermine* the *Church*, and the *Other* the *Monarchy*; and joyntly engaged in a *Common Endeavour* and *Deſign* for the Ruine of *Both*. So that the *ſame* Plot, in *Effect*, is carry'd on ſtill, but in *Other Names*, and by *Other hands*. The *Original* Quarrel was to the *Papiſts*: *This* is to the *Popiſhly-affected*. The Church of *Rome was* ſtruck at in the *One*, and the Church of *England is* ſtruck at in the *Other*: And what the *Jeſuits began*, the *Schiſmatiques* are now to *Finiſh*. Let no man queſtion the Truth of This, unleſſe he will Firſt put out his Eyes for his Credit; or bring a Certificate from the Colledge that he is *Non-Compos*, and does not know *Chalk* from *Cheeſe*. Provided allways, that Theſe People prove not at laſt to be Dr. *Oates*'s *Jeſuits* in the ſhape of *Schiſmatiques*; as I

have

have heard of ſome *Schiſmaticks* too in the ſhape of *Jeſuits*. I ſhall be told that This is only a *Blind* to cover the *Popiſh Plot*; whereas in Truth that Pretext is only a *Blind*, to cover the *Other*; and all their ſhifts are but ſo much *Lime* thrown in the *People Eyes*, to *Blear*, and *Confound* them that they may not diſtinguiſh *Prelacy* and *Popery*, *Papiſts*, and *Church-Proteſtants*, the *One* from the *Other*.

AND another Trick they have got; which is, to run canting with their *Appeals* to the *King* and *Parliament*; as if the very *Suggeſtion* of *This Plot* were a *Contradiction* to the *Evidence* of the *Other*; and conſequently to the *Authority*, *Juſtice*, and *Reſolution* of his *Majeſty* and the *Three Eſtates*. Are not our *Impoſtors* come now to a prodigious degree of *Boldneſs*, when they ſhall dare to Father ſuch *Shams* as *Theſe* upon the *Supreme Authority of the Nation*. But what's all This, to the old Story of Fathering *Murther*, *Sacriledge*, and *Rebellion* upon *God Himſelf*? 'Tis very True, that the King and Parliament have agreed upon't, and declar'd themſelves fully ſatisfy'd that there is a Damnable *Popiſh Plot*, but not one word of a *Popiſhly-Affected Plot*; neither do I finde that our *Refiners*, and *Improvers* of *Miſchief* have any Commiſſion for the extending of the *Popiſh Plot* ſo far; and themſelves at laſt to be the *Judges* of That *Popiſh Affection*: Much leſſe for the turning of That *Reproach* upon the Church of *England*, which was intended only againſt the *Opinions*, and *Practices* of the Church of *Rome*. It will be ſayd that they do not blaſt the *Church* of *England*, but here and there a *Rotten member* of it, that carrys on the *Popiſh Intereſt* under *That maſque*? 'Tis very right, that, take them in the good Humour, and they will yet allow *Two Biſhops* of the Twenty ſix to be *Proteſtants*; And *Four Proteſtant Divines* in the City of *London*; So that here's no Formal Attaque made as yet upon the *Body* of the Church; Only *Dr. Owen*, *Mr. Baxter*, and two or three more of them ly Pelting at the *Out-works*, while the

Lay-

Lay-Brothers are employ'd, some in *Mining*, others in *Drawing* here and there a Principal *Stone*, or *Timber* out of the *Building*; and every man, in his place, and station (according to the Covenant) contributing toward a *Total Ruine*: Only the work is now carry'd on by Other hands; or at least under Other Appearances. The *Plot* in *Substance* seems to be much the *Same*, saving only the Exchange of *Popery* for *Schisme*. We shall now briefly Touch upon the Methods by which these Ends are to be brought about.

BY This Invention of *Popishly Affected* they can Pick their Men, and cast out all that are not for their Turn; the *Word* being only made use of for a Distinction betwixt the *Adherents* to the *Church*, and the *Protestant Dissenters*. *Pray'e see* (says the Author of *Englands Great Interest*) *that you chuse* Sincere Protestants, *Men that do not play the* Protestants in Design; *and are indeed*, Disguised Papists; *ready to pull off their Masque when time serves*. [*When the* barefac'd Papist *cannot do it*, (says the *Instrument of Association*, Pag.4) *the* Protestant *in* Masquerade *shall*; *the Stratagem of This very day: And above all to be watch'd against*.] And in *an Account from Guild-Hall, they are called* Protestants *in* Masquerade, *in good time to be taken notice of, and receive the Reward due to their Merits*. [*To be* marked (says Another) *as the* worst of Papists, *and so dealt with in City and Country*] Now for *Variety-Sake* they call them *Courtiers*, *Pensioners*, and the like; and the *Clergy* are Treated (as upon the late Election of Knights of the Shire at *Chelmsford* in *Essex* (in the stile of *Jesuitical*, *Dumb Doggs*; *Dark Lanthorns*; *Baals Priests*; *Damned Rogues*; *Jacks and Villains*; *The Black Guard*; *The Black Regiment of Hell*, &c. And a General Exception made (by the Writer of the *Seasonable Warning*) *to all men in* Office, Preferment, Salary, or Court Employment. So that here's in a manner the one Half of the Kingdom (and the Legal Half too) as

much as in Them lyes) excluded from a ſhare in the Common Intereſt of the Nation: with what *Aym* and *Intent*, let the World judge.

THE *Popiſh Plot* is Sworn by all the *Witneſſes* to have been Level'd at the *Life* of his *Sacred Majeſty*, the *Subverſion* of the *Government*, and the *Deſtruction* of the *Proteſtant Religion*. Now Whoſoever well conſiders the *manner* of *Proceedings*, together with the *Stile*, and *Doctrine* of the *Poſitions* that are now afoot, (though pretendedly upon Another Bottom) will finde many Paſſages that look Untowardly the Same way.

Firſt, as to the *Life* of the *King*, and the *Direct Subverſion* of the *Government*, the Faction is not advanc'd ſo far yet; for That's a Villany that muſt be Impoſed upon the People, as a thing in ſuch and ſuch Caſes to be *Lawful*, before there can be any Thought of putting it in *Practice*. And herein, Our *late Reformers* have outdone the *Jeſuits Themſelves*: For over and above the *Expoſing* of a *Prince*, on the *One* ſide, for *Hereſy*, and, on the *Other* ſide, for *not ſubmitting to Chriſt on his Throne*; and equally on *Both ſides* to the *Utmoſt Extremities*; we have got Here the ſtart of them, in Erecting a Principle that makes the *Sovereign further Accountable* to the *People*, upon a point of *State*; as we ſhall preſently make appear by ſeverall Inſtances. Now if it be once laid down for a *Maxim*, that upon ſuch or ſuch Conditions, the *Subjects may* take away the *Life* of their *Prince* if they *will*; 'tis Damnable Odds that upon ſuch a Suppoſition, ſome Reprobated wretch or other *will* do it if he *can*.

I ſhall begin with the Acute Authour of the *Weighty Conſiderations Conſider'd*. I will hope (*ſays he*) *Pag. 6. there are very few in This Nation ſo Ill Inſtructed, that do not think it in the* Power *of the* People *to* DEPOSE *a Prince who really undertakes to Alienate his Kingdom, or to give it up into the Hands of Another Sovereign Power; or that really Acts the Deſtruction, or the Univerſal Calamity of his* People.

People. The Authour of the *Plea* to the *Dukes Anſwer* ſays that *when Kings themſelves be Ill ones, God not only* Approves *of their* Removal, *but even Himſelf* does *it*.

The *Political Catechiſm* places the *Government* in the *Two Houſes of Parliament*. The Late *Letter to a Perſon of Honour*, &c. ſays, there may be a *Self-Depoſition* of a *Prince actually Regnant*. And again, *The Weighty Conſiderations Conſider'd*, lodges the *Government* in the *Major Part*. And almoſt every Freſh Libeller ſpeaks to the ſame Purpoſe. Now do but once admit, that a King *May* Forfeit his *Royal Authority*, and you ſhall never fail of thoſe that will ſay, he *Has* don't; So long as there are men in the world that had rather *Govern*, then *Obey*: And the ſtreſs does not lye upon the *Quality* of the *Kings Actions* neither, but upon the *Conſtruction* that ſhall be made of them, by any Reprobated Band of *Conſpirators*, that ſhall preſume to *Cenſure* them. Whatſoever the Faction ſhall think fit to call *Miſ-Government*, muſt be ſo *Interpreted*, and *Reputed*; and to Them only muſt we repair, as to the Oracles of *Law*, and *Conſcience*. The *Safety* of the *King* and *Government*, our *Religion*, *Laws*, and *Freedoms*, are only, according to This Poſition, dependent upon the Humour of the *Multitude*: So that it is but Their bare *Saying*, that the *King* has *Forfeited his Crown*, the *Church* their *Priviledges*, the *Nobility* their *Seſſion of Peerage*; the *Commons* their *Character of Repreſentation*; the *Merchants* their *Liberty of Trade*; the *Gentry*, and *Commonalty* their *Lives*, *Freedoms*, and *Eſtates*, and the work is done. This was the Courſe of all our late violent Changes of Government; and the *Poſitions* which are now every day recommended to the Nation toward the Playing of the ſame Game over again, were the *Groundwork* of all our *Late Miſeries* and *Confuſions*.

Now

Now as to the *Church*: Are not the *Diſſenting Miniſters* at work again *Tooth and Nayl* againſt the *Act for Uniformity*; and Preaching up a *Schiſm*, under the Colour of *Formalizing* upon *Scruples*? Do they not firſt *Inſtigate* the People (in Contempt of *Law* and *Order*) to a *Separation*; and then furniſh them with the beſt pretences they can, for their *Diſobedience*? What will become of the *Proteſtant Religion*, when the *Reſtraint* of *Eccleſiaſticall Diſcipline* and *Jurisdiction* ſhall be taken away; and men left to *Themſelves* to go *their own ways*, and chuſe *their own Religions* at *Pleaſure*? If This be not an attempt upon putting the Laſt Branch of *the Popiſh Plot* in *Execution* by an *Extirpation* of the *Proteſtant Religion*; then the Church of *England*, (as it is legally eſtabliſht) muſt be confeſt, in Their Opinions, not to be *Proteſtant*: And conſequently be call'd to an Account for *That ſuppoſed Defect*, as not being Comprehended within the Equity of their *Good Will* and *Protection*.

I could multiply Theſe Inſtances without end; but here's enough ſaid to give Evidence of a *Peſtilent Deſign*. But whether it be a *Deſign* of a *Popiſh Contrivance*, tho' ſet a foot by the *Fanatiques*; or purely a *Fanaticall Deſign*; I ſhall not Determine; but leave the *Animadverſion* of it to the Conſideration of *Authority*, and appeal to the moſt *Partial Reader* for the *Truth* on't; Concluding with This Obſervation. That there is great *Malice* as well as *Danger* in the *Project*: For Thorough all this *Audacious Licenſe* of *Libelling* the *King himſelf*, the *Privy-Councell*, the *Judges*, the *Jury*; &c. of Tearing the *Church* to *pieces*, and Treaſonably undermining the very *Foundations* of the *Government*, by the Erecting of *Republican Maxims* wholly *Inconſiſtent* with, and utterly *deſtructive* of *This Imperiall Monarchy*: I do not finde yet ſo much as *One Diſſenters Pen* engag'd in the *Vindication* of *His Majeſty*, or the *Support* of the *Government*, to expiate for the Numberleſſe Pamphlets they have Publiſh'd toward the *Scandal* and *Deſtruction* of both; Or in *Juſtification* of Themſelves to the World, that they are as great *Enemies* to the *Subſtance* of the *Popiſh Plot* as they would be thought to be, and as great *Friends* to the *King* and *Government*.

The End.

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